

## **Pictograms**

### **Sun**

All life, all deeds are spawned and illuminated by the same light. The sun reminds us to wisely handle all creation and its treasures so that its rays may keep their life-giving qualities for many, many generations to come.

### **Crescent**

Devoid of inherent light, master of our tides – the moon is not only a traditional symbol of purity. Sister and friend of the sun, it can also be seen as a sign for the ever increasing percentage of people of Muslim faith in the European Union.

### **Peace dove**

Without the absolute and unreserved desire for peace, there can be no united Europe. This symbol of the Holy Spirit is also a symbolic image of the reconciliation among the European peoples.

### **Hour glass**

The hour glass is a reminder of the passage of time and the ephemeral nature of life; it refers to the end, but always to the beginning as well.

### **Pentagram**

The pentagram is not only found as the star in the symbolism of Europe but, since Leonardo da Vinci, it has also been a symbol of the enlightened human being *per se* and developed from the division of the golden ratio.

### **Hares**

This ancient motif of life's constant renewal also encompasses permanent vigilance, fertility – but fear as well. Christianity adopted the circular Three Hares motif as a symbol of the Holy Trinity.

### **Star of David**

The two interlaced equilateral triangles stand for the inalienable equality of the sexes; for us, it is also the symbol for European Judaism intended to keep alive the commemoration of the Holocaust – the extermination of this ethnic group so vital in the shaping of Europe.

### **Lyre**

This instrument with its complex connotations and levels of meaning is here a sign of the cultural creativity of European peoples. Handed down from antiquity and through the psalms and the psalter of King David, the lyre has become the symbol of the arts *per se*.

### **Monogram of Charlemagne**

Emperor Charlemagne – a truly European ruler with far-reaching connections extending all the way to the Orient. Allegedly, the 'Karlsforst' – the modern town of Kaarst – had been his favourite hunting ground.

### **Taurus**

Taurus is a reference to the legendary founding of Europe and suggestive of the goddess whose name was given to the continent. This legend also ties in with the concepts of fertility and development.

### **Tablets of the Law**

European law is based on the Ten Commandments handed down through the ages. Here, the Tablets of the Law also stand for the "Original Book" and the first rules of a community.

### **Sea shell**

All life comes from the sea. The sea shell – used here as a reference to *The Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli – is a symbol of purity and beauty and, in Christianity, the scallop shell became a Pilgrim's badge and an attribute of St Mary.